

CLAIMS:

I claim:

1. A content assembly and management system comprising:
 - a document management system coupled to a workflow engine;
 - a repository configured to store document fragments processed by different authoring roles managed through said workflow engine; and,
 - a content assembler coupled to said repository and programmed to produce a composite document from said document fragments.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a second repository coupled to said workflow engine and configured to store activities defining at least one business process.
3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a second repository coupled to said document management system and configured to store document templates each of said document templates referencing selected ones of said document fragments to produce a single composite document.
4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a digest of textual elements coupled to said content assembler, each of said textual elements denoting individual ones of said fragments in respective documents.

5. A document content assembly and management method, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a business process having a plurality of activities and a plurality of authoring roles authorized to participate in said activities;

applying modifications to selected document fragments through said authoring roles; and,

combining said document fragments to form a single composite document; and, rendering said document for viewing by at least one of said authoring roles.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of storing state information with said document fragments to indicate a state within said business process for a particular version of said document fragments.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the combining step comprises the step of combining individual ones of said document fragments having state information indicating a specified state within said business process.

8. A document content assembly and management method, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a business process having multiple activities and multiple actors performing said activities;

composing a document from a set of document fragments;

assigning different ones of said document fragments to different ones of said multiple actors for processing within different activities in said business process; and, providing a view to said composed document reflecting real-time modifications to said document fragments by said multiple actors.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of indicating a processing history for said document fragments in said view.

10. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for document content assembly and management, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by the machine cause the machine to perform the steps of:

defining a business process having a plurality of activities and a plurality of authoring roles authorized to participate in said activities;

applying modifications to selected document fragments through said authoring roles; and,

combining said document fragments to form a single composite document; and, rendering said document for viewing by at least one of said authoring roles.

11. The machine readable storage of claim 10, further comprising the step of storing state information with said document fragments to indicate a state within said business process for a particular version of said document fragments.

12. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein the combining step comprises the step of combining individual ones of said document fragments having state information indicating a specified state within said business process.

13. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for document content assembly and management, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by the machine cause the machine to perform the steps of:

defining a business process having multiple activities and multiple actors performing said activities;

composing a document from a set of document fragments;

assigning different ones of said document fragments to different ones of said multiple actors for processing within different activities in said business process; and,

providing a view to said composed document reflecting real-time modifications to said document fragments by said multiple actors.

14. The machine readable storage of claim 13, further comprising the step of indicating a processing history for said document fragments in said view.